

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A backlight unit comprising:

a light-guiding plate at the rear of an LCD panel;

first and second light source units at both sides of the light-guiding plate to emit light, each first and second light source unit having at least one luminous element;

a plurality of optical fibers each optical fiber corresponding to [a] the at least one luminous element and surrounding a circumference of the corresponding luminous element of the first and second light source units, to concentrate and to emit the light emitted from the first and second light units; and

a reflecting plate below the light-guiding plate, so as to reflect the light leaking in a direction away from the LCD panel to the light-guiding plate.

10. (Previously Presented) The backlight unit of claim 9, wherein each optical fiber is one of a glass optical fiber and a plastic optical fiber.

11. (Original) The backlight unit of claim 10, wherein the glass optical fiber is any of a silicic optical fiber, a fluoride optical fiber, and a rare-earth optical fiber.

12. (Previously Presented) The backlight unit of claim 9, wherein the luminous elements include one of a plurality of red, green and blue LEDs, a plurality of white LEDs, and fluorescent lamps.

13. (Previously Presented) A backlight unit comprising:

a main light-guiding plate at the rear of an LCD panel;

a sub light-guiding plate at one side of the main light-guiding plate;

a light source at one side of the sub light-guiding plate to emit light;

first optical fibers surrounding the circumference of the light source, so as to concentrate and to emit the light emitted from the light source to an incident surface of the sub light-guiding plate;

first and second reflecting plates below the main light-guiding plate, reflecting the light leaking from the main and sub light-guiding plates; and

a second optical fiber surrounding an emitting surface of the sub light-guiding plate and an incident surface of the main light-guiding plate, so as to concentrate and emit the light emitted from the sub light-guiding plate to the incident surface of the main light-guiding plate.

14. (Original) The backlight unit of claim 13, wherein the first and second optical fibers are one of a glass optical fiber and a plastic optical fiber.

15. (Original) The backlight unit of claim 14, wherein the glass optical fiber is any one of a silicic optical fiber, a fluoride optical fiber, and a rare-earth optical fiber.